

Production
(1)

IC 74-1743
7 August 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting D/DCI/IC

SUBJECT: Continued Progress in Intelligence Community
Production at the National Level

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1. I continue to be impressed by the NIO operation which [] is running in the Southeast Asia area. A case in point was a development of late last evening.

2. In the wake of the increased intensity of NVA/VC military operations in South Vietnam's MR 1, Bill Stierman, NSC Southeast Asia staffer, laid on a requirement for a Kissinger memo. This requirement was communicated to the NIO at 1745 on 6 August with a 8 August production deadline imposed.

3. As the requirement was essentially an assessment of the scope and intensity of Communist military operations in RVN, [] immediately passed the requirement to DIA. The latter agency was directed to provide a draft response by opening of business on 8 August.

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4. Concurrently, [] has called a meeting of the representatives of the principal production agencies for 0930 on the morning of the 8th. After meeting on the draft a community response will be provided HAK by close of business that day - complete with dissenting views if there is disagreement within the community.

5. The advance in community production of national intelligence which this represents is hard to over emphasize. While I am not attempting to leave the impression that joint efforts to produce community documents on a crash basis did not occur before the creation of the NIO system, these efforts were the exception not the rule. In the past, a short fuse requirement such as that outlined in paragraph 2 above would have more likely been handled in this manner -- a quick CIA in-house meeting, the preparation of a draft prepared exclusively by CIA, the LDXing of courtesy copies of the draft to INR/DIA, perhaps some slight modification in wording based upon a hasty INR/DIA review and submission of the draft to the national consumer as national intelligence.

6. If there is any value in better consumer-producer relations (the NIO-NSC link) and any truth in the adage that several heads are better than one (the community approach to production) I think we are really on the right track. What had been the exception -- true involvement of the entire production community in national intelligence products -- is now becoming the norm.

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Colonel, USMC

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cc:

IC/PRD [redacted] ty

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